CLAIMS

1. A base station for safekeeping of data, the base station comprising a power source, a data storage device and an interface, wherein the interface is operable to transfer data from a portable data-holding device to the data storage device for storing the data in said device, and the power source is operable to recharge a power source of the portable data-holding device.

2. A base station as claimed in claim 1, adapted to receive the portable data-holding device.

3. A base station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data storage device has a data storage capacity of n x a data storage capacity of the portable data-holding device, n being an integer.

4. A base station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data storage device is operable to store multiple downloads from the portable data-holding device.

5. A base station as claimed in claim 1, the base station being portable.

6. A base station as claimed claim 1, operable to upload and download data from the portable data-holding device.

7. A base station as claimed in claim 1, having no moving parts.

8. A method of data back-up comprising:
   a) providing a data safe;
   b) coupling a portable data-containing device to the data safe;
   c) downloading data from the portable data-containing device to the data safe; and
   d) recharging a power source of the portable data-containing device using a power source associated with the data safe.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, comprising prompting a user of the device to indicate whether to back-up the data.

10. A method of data preservation comprising:

a) providing a small data safe;
b) downloading data from a portable data-holding device to the data safe as a default condition when the portable device and the data safe are coupled, or at least as a condition involving no more user input than does not downloading; and
c) recharging a battery of the portable data-holding device when said device and the data safe are coupled.

11. A combination comprising a base station as claimed in claim 1 and a portable data-holding device receivable by the base station, data being transferable between the portable data-holding device and the base station.

12. A combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein the base station occupies a slightly larger area than one face of the portable data-holding device.

13. A combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein the base station is adapted to recognise a coded identifier associated with a specific said portable data-holding device.

14. A combination as claimed in claim 13, wherein data stored on the specific said portable data-holding device is backed up to a corresponding specific portion of the data storage device, in use.

15. A combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein a user of a specific said portable data-holding device is assigned a personal identification number (PIN).

16. A combination as claimed in claim 15, wherein the PIN determines which specific portion of the data storage device receives the user's back up, in use.

17. A combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein a coded identifier and a PIN are required to transfer data between the portable data-holding device and the base station.

18. Means for backing up data, comprising:
    a) means for safekeeping data;
    b) means for coupling a portable data-containing device to the means for safekeeping data;
    c) means for downloading data from the portable data-containing device to the means for safekeeping data; and
    d) means for recharging a power source of the portable data-containing device using a power source associated with the means for safekeeping data.

19. Means for preserving data, comprising:
    a) data-safe means for safekeeping data;
    b) means for downloading data from a portable means for holding data to the data safe means as a default condition when the portable means and the data safe means are coupled, or at least as a condition involving no more user input than does not downloading; and
    c) means for recharging a battery of the portable means for holding data when said portable means and the data safe are coupled.